

BCM

A Belgian J-culture Magazine

Nr 25: October - November - December 2015

INORAN

Beautiful Now

Interviews

X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACLAUS

Shota Yokoyama - ADAMS

my way my love

Mikaru - G.L.A.M.S.

Neb aaran do

Fashion & features

Helcanen in Japan

Halloween

Christmas



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Photography: provided by King Records

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Halloween J-fashion feature:

Models: Baby-chan (Gothic lolita), Hilde Heyvaert (holiday lolita, retro, otome kei), Samantha Moon (witch fashion), Nocturne Reflet (Gothic), Charlotte Ruddick (aomoji kei), Celia Sutton (aomoji kei), Agnes Van De Genachte (Gothic lolita), Laurens Van der Veken (Gothic), Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen (fandom)

Photography (by and provided by): Babs Barning (otome kei), Eily for Neb aaran do, Hilde Heyvaert (aomoji kei, Gothic, Gothic Lolita), Alex Morrison, (witch fashion), Celia Sutton (aomoji kei), Bert Van den Wyngaert (fandom, lolita, holiday lolita, retro)

Christmas J-fashion feature:

Models: Hilde Heyvaert (holiday lolita, otome kei), Kei, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen (classic lolita), X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus

Photography (by and provided by): Hilde Heyvaert (classic lolita), Agnes Van De Genachte (otome kei), Bert Van den Wyngaert (holiday lolita), X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus

Special thanks to: Cinquantenaire Museum, Helcanen, HIGHFeeL, King Records, Museum Plantin-Moretus, Too Wild, everyone who contributed and especially our readers!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

Nearly another year past, as we've reached the last edition of BCM of 2015. This edition is mostly full of interviews it seems, but of course we have plenty of other things too such as our snap pages, concert and event reviews and fashion features.

As is traditional, the last issue of the year covers Halloween and Christmas fashions. In other fashion news we spoke to design duo extraordinaire: Neb aaran do, who's personal Neverland is stealing the hearts of fashionistas across the entire globe.

Of course there is plenty of music to be found amongst these pages with interviews with INORAN, Yukio Murata of my way my love, Mikaru of G.L.A.M.S., Shota Yokoyama of ADAMS and metalcore band X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus. A lot of variety in music and fashion alike.

And for those that love travel, we are once again covering a segment of beautiful Japan with gorgeous photos taken by the incredibly talented Helcanen. This time we put focus on the island of Miyajima.

As always I would like to thank our readers and contributors, whom make it possible for BCM to continue. If you want to chip in for the next edition, the deadline is December 20th!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief

Net:
aara:
do
aa

by ネバアランド

FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS A JUDGEMENT AS A CHILD!



nebaarando.com



Get ready for Halloween in style!





Bowler hat, asos. Jack o' Lantern face knitwear sweater, asos. Shorts, Next. Socks, Disney Store Japan. Sneakers, Nike.



Beret, ebay seller. **Brooch on beret**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Cardigan**, Takko. **Blouse**, vintage. **Skirt**, handmade by Hilde with fabric by Rouge Aerie Designs (Carouskel). **Petticoat**, One Day in Paradise. **Tights**, Teja Jamilla. **Socks**, Decathlon. **Boots**, Kickers.



Shrug, thrifted at It's a Wrap. **Lace dress**, American Apparel. **Belt**, thrifted at It's a Wrap. **Bat purse**, Sleepyville Critters. **Bat tights**, Fairytale Boutique. **Shoes**, Blowfish.



Witch hat, dress and skull purse, thrifted at It's a Wrap. Bat tights, Fairytale Boutique. Boots, Blowfish.

Hair flower, H&M. Frames, Theo. Sleeveless jeans jacket, H&M. Blouse, 3Suisses.
Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Socks, ebay seller. Brogue shoes, Emilio Luca X.
Bracelet, handmade. Umbrella, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright.





Flower hairband, Crown and Glory. Frames, Theo. Skeleton earring, gift from a friend. Necklace, customised rosary. T-shirt, Primark. Blouse, EDC. JSK, Rouge Aerie Designs (Nightmare Rising). Bag, Bakker Made with Love. Octopus keychain, Awkward Animals (Awkward Octopus). Tights, asos. Spats, House of Secrets Incorporated. Shoes, Secret Shop. Bracelets, asos and handmade. Armor ring, bat ring and claw ring, Poorman's Gold Label.



Hat, vintage. Star clip, model's own. Blouse, H&M. Skirt, Fan+Friend. Tights, offbrand. Boots, model's own. Accessories, offbrand.











From the new **Wizards of the Moonlight – White Messengers** collection by *Neb aaran do*.



From the new Wizards of the Moonlight – White Messengers collection by Neb aaran do.



From the new **Wizards of the Moonlight – White Messengers** collection by *Neb aaran do*.

Photographic impressions of **JAPAN EXPO**

July 7 - 10, Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte, Villepinte, France

Photography by Marty Genicot.



MEETING RINRIN DOLL!

AN EVENT BY KAWAII AND FRENCH CAFÉ

Saturday, July 4; Princess Crêpe, Paris, France

Photography by Marie Tuonetar.



ANGELIC PRETTY TEA PARTY WITH RINRIN DOLL!

Saturday, July 4; Hotel Shangri-La, Paris, France.

Photography by and provided by Marie Tuonetar





Event: Starcom
What: pop-culture convention
When: Sunday, July 5 2015
Where: ICC, Ghent, Belgium
Ticket price: € 8 in presale or for cosplayers,
 €10 at the door
Website: www.starcom.tk

Starcom is the new popculture convention in Belgium, focussed primarily on sci-fi, fantasy and comics, even though their website and flyers promised a whole other slew of other things. As a first edition convention, of course things didn't run as smoothly as they could have, but that's ok, unless you can throw an immense budget at things, conventions are an uphill learning curve. Everyone that was at the convention seemed to be having a good time, so clearly they got the atmosphere down pretty well.

Due to circumstances, we only got there in the afternoon of the convention, and even though that time of day generally means that a significant amount of people has already left, there were still loads of people lounging on the grass and benches outside of the ICC and having a good time inside. A graffiti artist was painting a canvas and the food truck alley seemed to be quite popular.

The organisation was friendly, and made sure that everyone was given a Starcom Gazette (the program), either when they bought tickets, passing past the check point, or on the convention proper where staff was asking people whether they needed one and handing them out.

It had a great overview, making it easy to find things, as long as they were on the premises. Because Starcom apparently also had some things going on in three different secondary locations, which wasn't very clear if you hadn't (like me and undoubtedly many others) paid close attention to all social media involved. Additionally, a lot of people come in from outside of Ghent, are unfamiliar with the city and that doesn't help things along, especially as they weren't all very nearby.

On the upside, and this was a definite bonus for the convention, starting at the entrance with a proper barber shop, Starcom started displaying things you don't see at any other convention!

That barber shop at the entrance wasn't the only thing setting Starcom apart from other conventions. They went out of their way to at least distinguish themselves from other cons of their kind by things such as a cosplay message party, a treasure hunt which could allow you to significantly expand your spending budget at the convention, a superhero burlesque show, queue entertainment in the morning and some other little fun bits and pieces that definitely contributed to the fun feel to this first timer event.

Of course, there was shopping, and whilst several things were things you see at every convention, there were some wares on offers that you actually don't see anywhere else, so for collectors especially that was a good thing.

The main downside for me personally, even though this was a fun little convention and I'm sure that if the organisation takes critique to heart they can grow and become an awesome event on the pop culture calendar in the future, was definitely not the size, but the over advertising on the program and the spreading out of the locations. A food truck alley with three trucks is not worth the name and a Japan Corner so small it drowned in the rest of the convention was a bit silly. Especially seeing it wasn't actually catering to many a Japan fan's needs, instead peddling the kind of thing you see everywhere. I get that the convention wanted to cater to as many people as possible, and whilst it's great that they are doing that, it feels to me that they would do better to focus on a few things and present them really well in the future, rather than throw everything together as that can be a bit chaotic.

I also feel, and that impression has been confirmed after talking to people on the convention, that they were suffering from timing as well. Starcom clashed with Japan Expo, THE J-culture convention of Europe. But not only that, it was also on just outside the Ghent city center on a shopping Sunday, with perfect shopping weather and to top that off, the Tour de France was in the country. So it's probably a good thing to not over advertise next time and chose a date that clashes with less things.

But that critique aside Starcom was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon, it's a small scale convention that puts up a variety of fun things to participate in or watch and provides a good event for all ages (with exception of the burlesque show, which understandably was 16+). I look forward to see what they have done with their next edition.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



J-FASHION MINI-MEET

TO SHOW A SCANDINAVIAN FRIEND AROUND ANTWERP

Sunday, July 19; Antwerp, Belgium
Museum Plantin-Moretus, old town, Greenway vegetarian restaurant and Avelzal chocolate bar.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and a kind passer-by.





Event: Atsusacon
 What: J-culture convention
 When: July 18 - 19 2015
 Where: ICC, Ghent, Belgium
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.elfia.com

Atsusacon is one of the smaller J-culture conventions in Belgium. The past editions were held in *Antwerp Expo* in Antwerp (as the name of the venue suggests), but this year it moved to the *ICC* in Ghent, a much bigger location (which in the past housed *FACTS* and is also home to *Starcom*). The move not only meant more space to set up all kinds of things, but also meant that the ticket price went up quite significantly compared to past years. Something that, judging by the lack of turn-out on Saturday of visitors, clearly put of many people. It did seem that people from Ghent and surroundings were quite happy to drop by, but the raised entry cost on top of travel cost put off a lot of people from outside the province. Add to that an announced possible train strike and a clash with free inner city festival *Gentse Feesten* and you know a lot of people will stay home.

Regardless of the low turn-out, to put it mildly as it seemed that there were more volunteers/staff of the convention around than actual visitors in some areas, Atsusacon does their very best to come across as a very professional convention. And they do this very well. Where visitors can often feel rather lost at bigger cons such as *Made in Asia*, where staff is often poorly informed and thus badly equipped to properly answer queries, Atsusacon made sure to avoid that from happening. Staff at the entrance could tell you immediately where you had to go, everyone was provided with a high quality bracelet (not one of the standard papery ones) so it was easy to see who was allowed to be where and when and on the first floor a big info desk was set up where people could get a practical program for both days. Doors were also foreseen with a program for that particular room, so it was very easy to check you were in the right spot, and what was going on in the area you just wandered into.

Unlike many other conventions, where you go to to do some shopping, hang out with your friends (and generally find hardly any room or none at all to just sit down and have a breather) and possibly see something such as the cosplay competition or possibly also a band, Atsusacon does so much more. There was a maid café (which was tremendously

popular), game rooms, varied panels, workshops, lectures, and so much more. On many different subjects, so literally anyone could find something to their liking and something to do. It was also well divided, the room downstairs was for shopping and some organisations such as J-rock promo stand, *Nippon Zasshi* and convention promo booths, whilst the upstairs held all other activities.

There was a cosplay competition, a cosplay group shot and the concert by *Mikaru's* band *G.L.A.M.S.* (for a review of said concert and an interview with Mikaru, check the *J-music Corner* of this magazine).

Whilst the dealer room closed in the early evening, other activities such as the *Attack of the Oni* game, to name but one, and many others, went on 'till much later in the evening. So if you came to Atsusacon to busy yourself all day with activities, the € 20 at the door was really not overpriced, if you look at it like that, but I can imagine that it's a pretty big chunk out of people's budget if you have to add travel expenses, food and drink on top of that, just for one day of the convention.

Even though the ICC is in the heart of Ghent, in the middle of the *Citadelpark*, near the *Overpoort* district, and you thus have various options for (affordable) food, the convention itself did a splendid job at offering reasonably priced meals. There was quite a bit of choice of Japanese food (which seemed to be running out by the end of the day, I do hope they had some set aside for the next day!), and aside from that the maid café and other areas offered different snacks such as waffles and macaroons. Drinks were also at much more reasonable prices than regular conventions, which was much appreciated because it was a hot day.

In short: is Atsusacon a good convention. Yes, if only for the sheer diversity of the program. Was it overpriced: yes and no. You do get a lot of value for money, BUT considering your entry isn't your only cost, it was too expensive. Was it a good move to relocate to the ICC: in our opinion not at this point. I think that Atsusacon, considering the size, name it's made for themselves at this point and amount of visitors it attracts, is better off staying at a smaller venue (or at least a smaller part of the ICC like *Starcom* did) for a few years still. The train strike clash was of course not the organisation's fault, but programming Atsusacon during the *Gentse Feesten* was clearly a bit of a mistake, as it also scared off a lot of people driving into town (for no reason though, because if you arrived early enough, there was plenty of parking space in the area and you only paid € 3,50 for the whole day, but that is of course something that lots of people don't/didn't know). Atsusacon remains a lot of fun though, to hang out with friends and participate in the many items on the program, so hopefully this low turn-out Saturday won't have harmed the convention too much and we'll see it back in force next year.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of ATSUSACON

The convention lasted all weekend, but these photos are from Saturday, July 18; ICC, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Photographic impressions of HYPER JAPAN

July 10 - 12, O2 Arena, London, UK

Photography by Marty Genicot.



Behind the scenes of BCM's cover shoot with Shota Yokoyama of ADAMS. aka: **URBEXING WITH SHOTA**

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



LIESA'S GOODBYE MEET

We'll miss you Liesa! All the best in the UK!

Froyo, drinks, fun with friends and exploring sunny Ghent!
Sunday, August 30; Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Saltje (group shot).



COALESCAREMONIUM PICNIC

Sunday, September 13; Parc du Cinquantenaire, Etterbeek, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Luc Luyten (group shots).





Event: Elfia Arcen
 What: Fantasy Fair
 When: September 19 - 20 2015
 Where: the grounds of Arcen castle, Arcen,
 The Netherlands
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.elfia.com

"You'll never dream alone"

The latest edition of *Elfia Arcen*, the "little" sister event of the *Elfia Haarzuilens* fantasy fair, was themed around the popular HBO series *Game of Thrones*. The theme was well represented but not overly so, so participating in it was definitely a well-rounded option. We braved the weather to see the splendours this event and its venue had to offer. I'd say it was well worth it.

Elfia Arcen was held at the castle gardens of the Arcen castle, as always. These grounds showcase gorgeous greenery of all kinds, ranging from rose gardens, lakes and ponds, an Asian garden, indoor koi pond, woods and more, which makes for great photo opportunities for costumers and photographers alike. The grounds also offer playgrounds and mini golf for those tiring of the event's activities. Our visit to the fair was made easy as the staff of Elfia was very helpful, not to mention recognisable in-between all the fancy costumes thanks to their yellow-and-red tabbard uniforms.

The general atmosphere at the event was great. Many impressive costumes could be admired while strolling through the gardens and enjoying the stalls and activities. We did not encounter the rude photographers or narrow-minded curiosity seekers that are all too common on similar Belgian events. Activities included musical concerts, visiting the encampments, body painting, storytelling, singing bowl relaxation, lectures, contests, and more. Aside of these one could go shopping at the booths that sold items varying from LARP equipment to books and jewellery, enjoy the food and mead that was sold, and even hang out with the cutest owl duo one could possibly encounter (in the safety and presence of their trainers of course, as to protect the birds from possible over-enthusiastic fans).

Speaking of food and mead, both dining and drinking options were plenty and generally affordable, catering to vegetarians also. Vegan options were much more limited, but you could find them if you put in a little effort. Of course bringing your own food was no issue, and there were quite a few areas set up where you could enjoy your food, whether you bought it at the event or brought a packed meal from home.

Even though this fair was mainly a fantasy event, Japan was nevertheless present and could be found in a Samurai & Geisha show, workshops about kimono's and samurai armour, and through the J-fashion enthusiasts and cosplayers among the visitors. Elfia may be listed as a fantasy fair, it is always so much more, catering to sci-fi fans with their sci-fi area, J-culture fans, and of course pop-culture fanatics and roleplayers (be it LARP or tabletop) also. It's a diversity that undoubtedly contributes to the popularity of the event, and one of the things that makes it so great.

Sadly enough the weather did not agree with us. It started raining very heavily during the afternoon, which led to plenty of mud, wet costumes, and cancelled activities. We ended up fleeing from the castle grounds into the safe haven of our car as our umbrellas were simply not enough to withstand the storm anymore. As we were only present on Saturday, we cannot speak for Sunday. Despite the fact that the organisation could obviously not foresee this weather, some more shelter options would be an improvement for the next editions. We were definitely thankful for the broad paths that allowed us to avoid the mud caused by the rain; an issue from the past that has improved a lot.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert, Lora-Ely Vannieuwenhuysen and Tom Van Roy.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Clara Lina Wirz.





Helcanen in Japan

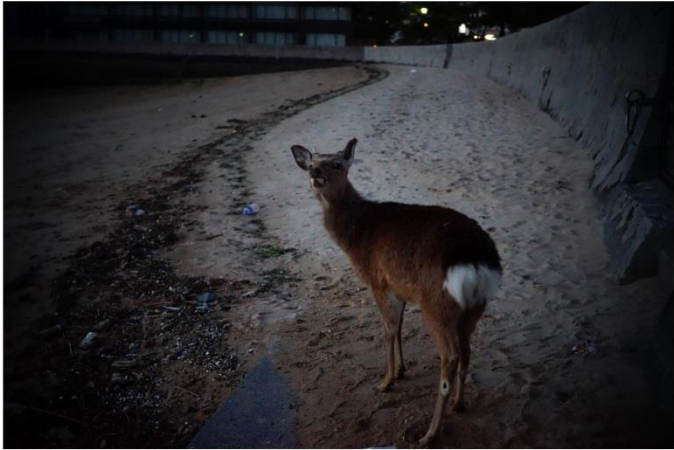
Miyajima special

visiting utsukushima, the beautiful island.

torii of the itsukushima shrine













Entrance to the Daiganji temple.



tahoto pagoda



Aishoin temple











Daishoin temple



omotesando shopping arcade





*Omotesando
shopping arcade*



NEB AARAN DO

Welcome to
Neverland





Neb aaran do is one of the most innovative, fun and quirky up and coming Japanese brands. In the few years it has been around it has amassed quite an enthusiastic following world-wide. High time to find out a little more about this beautiful Neverland of the team behind this amazing brand.

For those that don't know Neb aaran do yet, could you describe the brand in 5 words?

Eternity, liberty, school, innocence and resistance.

How did the two of you first meet and come to work together as such a close-knit team?

Jammy: Eily and I went to same art university, she had already started a brand when I met her, named Neverland. When I saw her work I was really moved. At that time I was making movies and doing photography. I really wanted to do something together with her so we formed this unit. Eily designs all the garments and I direct all artwork and graphic design. Several years later we founded *Neb aaran do Ltd.*

Your brand name refers to Peter Pan's Neverland, what appeals to you the most about that world?

Oh no, it's so confusing but whilst the name is a referral to Neverland, it has nothing to do with Peter Pan. It's a common misunderstanding! Our Neverland refers to an impossible place. A Land we think we can't visit. We want to make that imaginary place real, something more free, regardless of age or gender, and create a universal beauty.

If you lived in Pan's Neverland, would you join Hook's pirate crew or Peter Pan's *Lost Boys* and what kind of clothes would you design for them?

Eily: I want to join Hook's pirate crew and design a long black overcoat with stern crocodiles in gold thread for them.

Your catch-phrase is "for everyone who suffered judgement as a child", did you get in a lot of trouble over the clothes you wore when you were younger?

Eily: When I was a teenager, I had a rebellious attitude towards femininity and masculinity. I wore the traditional sailor suit, which is the girl's uniform. One day I was told by a junior high school teacher that the Japanese school uniforms are modeled from European military and navy uniforms. According to that theory the boy's uniform is based on the officer's uniform and the that of the girl's on the navy petty officer. Accordingly, these also stand for the difference in rank. It all made me have mixed feelings about them as the uniform is the symbol of compulsion to me. So I wanted to make a new style, something more free, regardless of age and gender. Something with a universal beauty for everyone who can still think like a child.

Neb aaran do is very innovative each collection, without losing its defined look, what keeps you inspired for new pieces season after season?

Jammy: Thank you very much! We are still inexperienced and Neb aaran do is a very small brand in the world. But to us this brand is our most precious treasure. I go into an awful slump every season to be honest! Every time I feel like it'll be our last collection, but even though I feel like that we continue to challenge ourselves without ever giving up! We hope to make something that lasts, now and forever.

Which is your personal favorite of all Neb aaran do items that have been made so far?

Eily: The *Building Block Choir Sailor Dress* means a lot to me because it was our first factory production. *Land's End Dress* is important too because it is the most like the spirit of Neb aaran do. But my personal favourite is always my latest work.

You have visited events in Europe as well as in Japan, what did you like best about Europe and the local J-culture scenes?

Jammy: Japan Expo and French Café's tea party event. I was very impressed! I met amazing girls and boys! They are very, very cute, stylish and kind!

You often sell at events, what is the best about being present there?

Jammy: Them being full of wonderful encounters. I am always happy to meet wonderful girls and boys. Even when we live far apart, I feel that people who share similar wishes and tastes are close.

Many brands hold catwalk/runway shows that are very grand and have special themes. What would be your dream show for Neb aaran do? How would it look?

Jammy: We would have many cute girls and boys appear on the runway and make sure the entire show is a very fun time for both the audience and the performers!

Eily: I want to make a fresh and aggressive show!

Neb aaran do is a brand that is also available outside of Japan. Do you think that the free trade agreements that Japan is negotiating with the US and Europe will make it easier for you to sell overseas?

Jammy: Of course, It's really nice for both our customers and us too! I hope many people will be able to buy Japanese items more easily.

A lot of designers release special pieces for holidays such as Halloween and Christmas, are you going to do the same this year?

Jammy: I love these holidays! We released a new collection recently called *Wizards of the Moonlight – White Messengers*, which I think is really nice for Halloween. Fun characters appear in this collection such as a wizard, a vampire and a wolf girl so it's definitely on theme.

The year is slowly coming to an end, what can we expect of Neb aaran do in 2016?

We want to make a masterpiece and go to Paris!

Find neb aaran do online:

Official website: <http://nebaarando.com>

Online shop: <http://nebaarando-store.com>

Official twitter: <https://twitter.com/eilykjammy>

Official blog: <http://neverland-eilykjammy.com/blog>





THEGAZETTE

◐ ◑ ◒ ◓ ◔

OUT NOW DIGITALLY – CD WITH TRANSLATIONS FROM 2 OCTOBER



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick, Shinya, Bert Van den Wyngaert and Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen.



the GazettE

"DOGMA"

Full album

Genre: metal

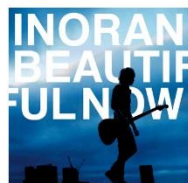
Release date: 26.8.2015

Or 2.10.2015 for physical copy from JPU Records with additional, exclusive translated booklet.

With DOGMA, the GazettE continues to prove that they are not your average Japanese metal band, combining different subgenres of metal with electronic music and industrial, they are clearly evolving from previous works, and utterly unafraid to experiment and test their own boundaries. Singer RUKI's voice also lends itself perfectly to this style of music. To put it bluntly, but in a way that clearly communicates the general feel of the album pretty well: DOGMA is J-rock meets alternative metal with super heavy guitars, and then some. It is definitely something that every metal fan should give a listen, because it is very likely to pleasantly surprise them, but on the other hand it is also an album that is definitely something for the taste of metal fans.

As an additional note: fans of the band living outside of Japan won't have any issue getting their hands on physical copy of DOGMA, as it is released on October 2nd by UK based JPU Records, huzzah!

BCM's favorite track: DAWN



INORAN

"BEAUTIFUL NOW"

Full album

Genres: rock – shoe gazing

Release date: Summer 2015

INORAN is back with a new solo album, his 10th so far. And without the shadow of a doubt, BEAUTIFUL NOW is the most diverse album he has released up to date. With a great variety in the 10 songs on this particular release, INORAN proves that his style continuously evolved without losing its identity. Every single song, regardless of genre and style has INORAN's signature sound to it. One of the strong points is that the artist is utterly unafraid to dabble in different genres, not just Western style rock, but also shoegazing, mixing in rap and even going as far as adding a country style

ballad. Aside from that, it is very accessible, not only because the lyrics are in English, but also because it has a very European feel to it. Definitely INORAN's best to date. To top it off, aside from the 8 original and new songs, this album contains the previously limited release Something about You, finally making that particular track accessible to all INORAN fans world-wide, as well as a cover of X JAPAN's HIDE's Pink Spider, a song much beloved by many J-rock fans, and he does it nothing but justice. BCM's favorite track: Might Never See...



J

"Eternal Flames"

Full album

Genres: J-rock – Post-punk

Release date: 2.9.2015

It's hard to argue that J doesn't stand for high quality hard rock and post-punk, because he does. And this makes Eternal Flames a fun album that makes you want to move and head bang to the tunes, but at the same time it gives the impression, especially at first listen, that it's a step back for J, rather than forward, as this album's predecessor Freedom nr 9 was much more solid and innovative. Eternal Flames is still J doing what he does best: producing rock and post-punk with distinctive drums and the kind of bass line that every bass player wishes they could play with as much ease. It is a great album for sure, but it's just not his best. That said, if you love these genres, you should definitely check this out, because as far as albums in this style coming from Japan go, it really is one of the better ones of 2015.

BCM's favorite track: Wall





my way my love
"SHIT!"
 Full album
 Genre: J-rock – Noise rock
 Release date: 31.7.2015

The creative and musical genius of Yukio Murata keeps on going, because my way my love once again brings us one of the most innovative releases of 2015 with SHIT! It is diverse, gripping, and if you love noise, noise rock, old school punk and original rock music, an album you simply have to listen to. Whilst it is obvious that the band is influenced by noise rock pioneers Sonic Youth and even our own Belgian Soulwax, my way my love remains very much original and clearly stands out in the genre, mainly by not being afraid to be avant-garde, different and try new things. The band continues to evolve, for the better and has produced their most solid and amazing album to date with SHIT!

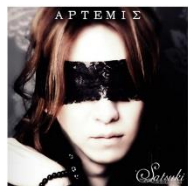
BCM's favorite track: R-O-C-K-E-T B-O-Y



→ Pia-no-jaC ←
"→ PJ ← Selection"
 Full album
 Genre: hybrid instrumental
 Release date: summer 2015

→ Pia-no-jaC ← is a jazzy Japanese duo consisting of Hayato on piano and Hiro on cajon. Together they make highly energetic music which they define as neither classical nor jazz, but hybrid instrumental. Their new cd, → PJ ← Selection, was released in honor of their European summer tour and contains a best off selection of their repertoire. Lovers of classical music will recognize original twists on composers such as Beethoven or Mozart, though other sources of inspiration like jazz, romanticism, rock 'n' roll, and even environmental elements such as fireworks can be heard. On a whole, these tracks make for a remarkably eclectic yet charming and unique musical experience. Even if → Pia-no-jaC ←'s music is not your cup of tea, I can guarantee you that you won't be able to keep still while listening to this album. This cd will sweep you off your feet, take you on a melodious tour around the world (while making a small detour to the moon), and leave you with snapping fingers and tapping toes.

BCM's favorite track: Typhoon



Satsuki
"Artemis" (hardcopy CD version)
 Single
 Genre: J-rock
 Release date: summer 2015

Artemis was released for Satsuki's European tour, which took place August - September 2015. There are two versions, a digital one, including a 4th song Diana and the hardcopy CD version, which does not include Diana. This review of the hardcopy version, so obviously we can't say any-

anything about that illustrious 4th track. What we can say, however, that Satsuki does a great job at being diverse on a 3 track single, which is a pretty mean feat. It is definitely a release that will please fans of both Satsuki and traditional J-rock.

BCM's favorite track: Selene



Season of Ghosts
"The Human Paradox"
 Full album – Japanese edition
 Genres: rock, metal, electro-rock
 Release date: 8.7.2015

Season of Ghosts is back with a new version of hit-debut album The Human Paradox, with an added bonus: an up-tempo electro remix of The Phoenix Syndrome. And its well worth it, especially if you don't already own the album: heart hitting (pun intended) beats, strong female vocals and even a cat attempting world domination through purring a track (yes this is a real thing!), The Human Paradox has it all. So if you've not gotten a copy yet, grab one whilst you can!

BCM favorite track: Time Travellers



X Made Alcoholic Santa Claus
"Nouveau Départ"
 EP
 Genre: metalcore
 Release date: summer 2015

This 8 track second release by XMAS, Japanese metalcore band from Yokohama, came just in time for their European tour, where fans were able to listen to all songs on the album performed live. Whilst it is a solid enough album, XMAS is most definitely a live band. It's not to say they don't sound good on recording, it's just that their songs are best listened to live. That aside, Nouveau Départ is fun work to listen to if you're in the mood for hard and heavy rock and metal music with ripping guitars and a pumping rhythm.

BCM's favorite track: Throw Away Tonight



Photographic impressions of **CONCERTS AT HYPER JAPAN**

Saturday, July 11; O2 Arena, London, UK.

Photography by Marty Genicot.



G.L.A.M.S.

Glamnight tour

Atsusacon,

ICC, Ghent, Belgium

Saturday, July 18 2015

It wasn't the first time that G.L.A.M.S. performed in Europe, or Belgium for that matter, but it was the first time they performed in the city of Ghent. So Atsusacon didn't just have a first with their first ever live performance at their first ever edition in the ICC, the band had a first time playing in that particular city as well.

They performed in what is essentially a lecture room, so it was mostly a seated venue, but the organisation had solved that particular issue by roping off the stage area and improvising a floor area in front of that as there was no raised stage available. A solution that worked well enough, especially considering the low turn out of the convention itself, so fans that wanted to be in front standing could, and others that wanted to sit down and enjoy the music could find a seat higher up and still enjoy a good visual of the live performance.

Which of course brings us to the point of this review: the actual live. There's really nothing that can be remarked on the band's efforts. Clearly each and every single one of them is very skilled at their particular instrument. BUT, and here comes the but, the concert was really not as good as it could and would have been, had there been a competent sound engineer present. The vocals and guitar were completely drowned by the drums and the bass, which were both set way too loud for the rest of the band, making it very hard to even make out Mikaru's voice, which is a right shame as he has a really good singing voice. The guitar was drowned in the bass, and don't get me wrong, I love the sound of the bass, but it's not meant to be drowning out everything, and the same goes for the drums.

Despite of that technical malarky, the band did their utmost to make the very best of the performance and the fans all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it anyway.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus

Nouveau Départ European tour

Peniche La Legia, Liège, Belgium

Sunday, September 6 2015

Having just released their new album *Nouveau Départ*, metalcore band X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus, was very enthusiastic to perform the songs for a European audience and it showed. Not only could you clearly see that they loved being on stage, the energy was bursting off the stage and into the audience, even creating a mini mosh pit, from the first song to the last. The band went through their entire arsenal of songs, even having to go as far as to perform *Throw Away Tonight* twice (once during the set and once as an encore), which leads me to believe that maybe they should study a few covers to fill up their shows. But that aside, respect that they came out for seconds even though they had run out of material.

My only real regret is that La Legia, which is a concert and recording studio house boat without a proper stage to speak of, is not entirely suitable for a heavy music band like XMAS, who would be at their best on a real, raise stage in a proper club. But that aside, they performed a fantastic gig full of energy that was enjoyed by all fans present. And Belgian opening act Noisy Pride was very enjoyable also.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



INORAN is back with a new album, his first full album release since 2012 and his 10th studio album on top of that. No time like the present to catch up with him and talk about **BEAUTIFUL NOW**.

Congratulations on your 10th album, it is a great work that is a pleasure to listen to! What would you say inspired you the most when writing BEAUTIFUL NOW?

Touring with *LUNA SEA*. Our last tour lasted nearly a year from last year to this spring. There was so much heat from the audience at every single venue, because they had been waiting for us for such a long time. A lot of the inspiration for this album comes from the power and love of our fans.

Listening to your music, it is obvious that your style constantly evolves. But how do you feel you yourself have evolved as a musician since you first started out and released your first album?

Personally, I feel that this is very subjective. It's something that can be judged by others rather than me myself. In any case it's not something I care about at all because I don't experience it that way. In daily life, we are affected by each other with every experience and through meeting a lot of people. Therefore change comes natural because it's a natural thing. But if people say this is progress for me, it may be true.

Does it get easier making a record in time, do you feel it was easier to make BEAUTIFUL NOW than your previous ones?

A production won't be finished without a fixed schedule in any case. So the production process was the same as before, but I did need to compose songs within a much more limited time frame. Actually this was the shortest ever. Because the *LUNA SEA* tour left a huge impact on me, I could hang on to the feeling very easily and that made it possible to produce the album within such a short time frame.

Listening to the new album I found it has a very European feel to it, was that something you went for on purpose?

I didn't make it with a particular place in mind, but I did compose the songs abroad this time because of the weather in Japan. I wanted to produce the songs in a more open environment, that's why I left Japan to make *BEAUTIFUL NOW*. The European atmosphere you mention is probably because of my feelings at the time.

Which are your favourite European artists?

I really have too many to choose... I have loved *U2* for a long time. Recently I started listening to *Avicci* and *Zedd*. But I listen to any kind of music and from all countries.

Are there any concrete plans to come back to Europe after you finish your autumn tour in Japan?

So far I don't have any plans but I'd definitely love to come back.

BEAUTIFUL NOW is quite a diverse album, what would you say is the general message you hope to communicate to the people that listen to it?

Rather than trying to convey a particular message, I want to communicate my thankfulness and gratitude to my fans, who always support me in all my projects.

How do you hope the music on BEAUTIFUL NOW will inspire the listener in their own lives?

I'm sure I put my heart and feelings in it, so I think how it inspires people will depend on each individual listener. Everyone enjoys an album in a different way, and everyone will have their own favourite track. I do hope that everyone will enjoy the album freely and will have positive feelings about it.

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On 2Limes you combine rock with hip hop, how did you come to collaborate with MINHYUK, PENIEL and ILHOON from BTOB?

I met all three of them through a mutual acquaintance, and saw them live twice during their Japan tour. I am often asked why I am

working with K-pop artists, but I don't see them as Korean pop idols, just as artists who express themselves. In fact, when I met them, they were very nice and left a great impression on me. When I was making *2Limes* I thought it would be more interested to add rap to the track and they came to mind to do it. I'm a people person and I love relating to people whom I like, so I asked them to work with me and they were willing to do so. And that's how we came to collaborate *smiles*.

Fading Memory has an almost country feel to it, why choose to merge your own distinguished style with this genre?

Musical genres are irrelevant to me, like I said before: I will listen to anything, from anywhere. It's why I don't like to categorize music. Good music is good music, and I do what I feel like at the time.

Is mixing different genres into your own music something you want to do more in the future?

It really depends on my feelings at that moment. I wouldn't exclude it but right now I don't know yet.

Something about you is the only previously released track on the album, what made you choose to include that track in particular?

Originally the song was released as a single only available at concert venue. Which in turn a limited amount of people was able to listen to it. But in my mind, it really linked to the album, and it really clicked, so I decided to add it to *BEAUTIFUL NOW*.

You have your own signature model guitar with Fender, could you tell us a little more about that?

My signature models are both Jazzmasters: #1 and #2, made by Denis Garuzska, the master builder of Fender. These guitars really helped me to expand my guitar play. There's also a white version, the road worn Jazzmaster, which is made in Mexico that will be released soon, on October 20th.

You often post photos of alcohol on social media, if you were at a bar and had the choice between tequila and Belgian beer, what would you go for?

That's a difficult question! I think it would depend on whom I'm drinking with. I love both tequila and Belgian beer, so I can't make up my mind and choose *smiles*.

Next edition is our holiday edition, so on a closing note: what would you like to receive for Christmas?

Any present chosen just for me will make me happy. Generally when you are shopping for someone, looking for a present, you'll think about what the person you are buying for likes and you hope they will like what you pick right? That moment and that feeling are exactly like getting a present yourself more than anything I think, finding the exact right gift *smiles*.

Find INORAN online:

Official website: <http://inoran.org>

Official twitter: twitter.com/INORAN_OFFICIAL

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/INORANOfficial

Official instagram: [instagram.com/inoran_official](https://www.instagram.com/inoran_official)

INORAN on soundcloud: [soundcloud.com/inoranofficial](https://www.soundcloud.com/inoranofficial)

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography and Japanese translation provided by King Records.
Many thanks to INORAN and King Records.



my way my love is back with a new album, so of course we had to find out more about it!

BCM spoke to frontman **Yukio Murata** about **SHIT!**, projects, outer space, pizza and holidays.

When listening to *SHIT!* I found that it was not only a continuation of the new *my way my love* sound like we could hear on *the fact is*, but that I could also recognise the old sound in the mix, what made you choose for a combination of these sounds?

Initially I wanted to make a heavy rock album, with a fuzzy kind of sound that has a live feel to it, like you would experience if you attended a *my way my love* concert. But then we started experimenting with the guitar amp, which resulted in several new things. Actually *SHIT!* was almost completely recorded in just 1 take. It wasn't really my intention to mix our old, pre-*The Fact Is* sound together with our newer sound, I think it's definitely different from what we've done before.

There are also quite a few punk songs on *SHIT!*, why did you choose to add this genre to the album?

Well originally because of the influence on me personally as a musician. I used to love punk rock back in the day when I was a teenager. Even though I feel that *my way my love* is a noise rock type of band, I feel that there is a close relationship between noise rock and punk rock. So including punk on the new album came very naturally.

Which is your favourite punk band?

I have a lot of favourite bands. For example I really love *BAD BRAINS*, *WIRE* and of course *Sonic Youth*, even though that is a noise band rather than a punk band.

One of the songs on *SHIT!* is called *Pizza baby*. Which is your favourite kind of pizza?

I actually like hamburgers just as much as pizza. I suppose any pizza containing cheese and bacon is a winner. Paired with a nice wine, that is important too!

You only included one previously released track *sweet bitter sweet* which is also on *"the fact is"*. Why did you choose to include this track specifically on the new album also?

Well, previously we only had the demo sound source for the song. This is a proper recording. As it was pretty popular for some time, and because it's a fan favourite at lives and on our live broadcasting, we decided to re-record it and include it in the new album.

You mentioned on Facebook that the *SHIT! world tour* has started, which other countries will the band perform at, outside of Japan?

Our schedule is fully booked in Japan until November, so I think I will go to the US and Europe after December, if at all possible. I know many fans outside of Japan are waiting to experience the *my way my love* sound live, and I'd love to bring it to them if I can!

You are active on various social media, which out of all of those is your favourite to use?

I'm quite happy to use the entire lot to be honest, I love all social media.

Do you think it's essential to be so well represented online?

Absolutely! I think it's important to appear online in the present time, if only for advertising purposes, to inform people of my many projects *smiles*.

Aside from being the vocalist and guitarist of *my way my love*, you are also *U-re:x' Paperbag Man*, could you tell us a little about *U-re:x'* future plans?

There aren't any plans for lives or new recordings with *U-re:x* at the moment, as I am so busy working on *my way my love* and as a producer right now.

You also produce the releases by alternative band *Entralls*, how did you come to work with them?

Members of my staff here in Japan were with them, as well as a mutual acquaintance and they got talking, which resulted in me receiving the offer to work with them. I'm happy I am producing their material because I think it's a very good band.

Is producing something you want to do more in the future?

I do think that working as a producer suits me very well. I definitely want to do a lot more producing work. So if there is a good band that wants to work with me, I'm definitely open to the possibility.

Japan is currently negotiating free trade deals with the EU and US, do you think that these will change much for you personally?

Because I am releasing my works globally, I definitely think that it will have some effect on me. I'm not sure in which way yet, but it's bound to be relevant in some way or other.

How do you think that Japan free trade deals with the EU and US these will change life in Tokyo in general?

I think that there are good points and bad points to things like these. It definitely impossible to pinpoint how it will be, but surely it will bring along change. What change exactly will remain to be seen.

A lot of songs on *SHIT!* have a space theme going on in the title, *Black Alien*, *R-O-C-K-E-T B-O-Y*, *R-O-C-K-E-T G-I-R-L*, if you could fly a rocket to anywhere in space, where would you go?

Like *David Bowie* sings, I want to go to Mars. And once there I'll make a space noise band called *Sonic Mouse*. It'll be like *Mickey Mouse* on Mars *smiles*!

Lots of people dress up their pets for Halloween. If your dog could chose a costume, what do you think she'd dress up as?

Of course, she will dress up as *Minnie Mouse* this year!

What are you going to dress up at this Halloween?

I'm still debating some ideas to be honest. Do you think the ghost of a pizza is a good one *laughs*?

Fans often give presents, which Christmas present can people always make you happy with?

Though anything is nice, as I always appreciate fans giving me things, I especially like receiving sweets and coffee *smiles*.

Find *my way my love* online:

Official website: www.mywaymylove.com

Official twitter: twitter.com/mywaymylove

Official blog: twitter.com/mywaymylove

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by Yukio Murata.



MIKARU

All about being
G.L.A.M.orous.
and original



Mikaru and his band **G.L.A.M.S.** were back in for **Glamnight tour**, their second European tour that took them to plenty of cities all over the continent. We caught up with Mikaru at his first concert in Ghent, at the *Atsusacon* convention where we talked about music, his painting and other art projects and women's underwear.

Your current tour is called *Glamnight tour*, why did you choose that name specifically?

Because it sounds glamorous, much like a diamond. *G.L.A.M.S.* is sparkling and brilliant like that, so I feel like it fits very well. I want to make the tour and every live on it dazzling impossibly bright into the night.

The tour has been going on for some time now, what have been the best and the worst moments of it so far?

The best was the show in Liège, because that was the first time I got to perform in Europe with a live support drummer. That was really awesome because it really brought my music to life and it made the entire band euphoric.

I don't really have a worst, so I'm going to tell you something I find super funny instead. Wherever we go, our drummer is a total gay magnet. And he's not gay at all! In Cologne they even thought he was a girl and some guy tried to buy "that girl over there" a drink *laughs*. It always results in hilarious situations *laughs*.

You also have a *G.L.A.M.S.* jewellery line, what inspires you the most when it comes to designing new jewellery and merchandise?

Women and the female aesthetic in general. I think women are beautiful, but I want to make them even more beautiful and gorgeous with my creations. All women. I design and make everything myself. It takes me about a week to create a single piece. I like to listen to Jazz when I create jewellery, such as *Armstrong* and *Sinatra*. When it comes to merchandise, I try to be as original as possible. That's of course not easy but I do my best to make every piece as different, ground breaking and gorgeous as possible. I'm always on the lookout for new things to inspire me.

Aside from being a musician, you are also a painter, who are your greatest inspirations when it comes to painting?

Smiles too many! I love *Picasso* and *Monet* and I do learn a lot from them. On one hand I like studying other painters, but on the other I don't want them to influence my style too much. I want it to stay just my own original style. So in the end I taught myself everything I know about painting I suppose. It's all my own burning soul *laughs*.

A few years ago you had an exhibit in Paris, do you have any plans to do another one in Europe soon?

I really do hope so! But maybe I'd like to do it somewhere else than Paris. There are a lot of other big cities, worldwide, I want to exhibit and perform in.

You posted a photo of yourself visiting a church on your Facebook. Which has been your favourite of all the churches you've visited so far?

The *Notre-Dame* in Paris. It's so huge and the ceiling is so high. I love all the brass details, they are simply beautiful. I went there when I was having my art exhibit in Paris, to pray for a European tour to happen. And then I fell asleep *laughs*. But it did work out because here I am for the second time *laughs*.

Are there any famous churches in the world you still hope to visit one day?

Yes! The older the better. And not just churches, but castles as well. I love their architecture and history. Europe is a little like Japan in that regard and I have a lot of interest for them.

You travel in between Europe and Japan quite often. Which would be your travelling tips for people that want to do the same thing?

I'm a smoker so flights that long are absolute hell for me. They drive me absolutely crazy. So basically I take sleeping pills to sleep through the entire trip. So basically that would be my suggestion.

Japan is currently negotiating free trade deals with the EU and US, do you think that these will change much for you personally?
I don't really follow politics to be honest, but I do hope that the price of cigarettes, which are very cheap in Japan, doesn't go up *laughs*.

The last issue of each year is our traditional holiday edition, spanning both Christmas and Halloween. So these last two questions are in that spirit.

Halloween is a pretty big deal in Japan these days. What are you going to dress up at this Halloween?

You know, I haven't decided yet for this year, but I hope to be able to perform on the night. I did a Halloween concert before where I dressed up as a bloodied mummy and accidentally scared a teenage fan *laughs*. Next time I want to go really all out, to the level of *Lordi*, so completely and far more over the top *grins*. I want demon wings and a flight harness to fly over the audience!

Fans often give presents, which Christmas present can people always make you happy with?

I'm easy to buy for really. I like beer, cigarettes, sweets and new and unused sexy women's panties. With lace! Preferably white lace *laughs*. No seriously I'd love to get some panties!

(Editor: this is a note that the management insisted I include. "If any fans insist on buying Mikaru above described ladies underwear, that would be fine, but please only hand them over during signing sessions and discretely gift wrapped to avoid awkward public situations.")

Find Mikaru online:

Official website: <http://g-l-a-m-s.com>

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/Mikaru.GLAMS

Official twitter: twitter.com/mikaruglams

Mikaru's blog: <http://ameblo.jp/the-mikaru>

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by the tour management.





Win a cheki signed by all members of G.L.A.M.S.!

When we interviewed **Mikaru** at Atsusacon, he not only kindly spoke to us and drew this awesome picture for all his BCM reading fans, but after the G.L.A.M.S. concert he and all other members of his band were kind enough to not only pose for a cheki to give away, but also to sign it!

So dear reader, that is what you can win: a cheki signed by ALL members of G.L.A.M.S., taken after their very first concert in Ghent, Belgium!

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular signed cheki.

You can write something, draw something, do a photoshop collage, anything goes as long as you can email it in some way and it is safe for work!

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com, the last date for submissions is December 20th, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final edit period of the next edition, so please be patient for the Results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient, especially if you live outside of Belgium. Especially outside of Europe it may take everything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.





An ABC of
Belgian
music with
Shota
Yokoyama

For this particular interview with **Shota Yokoyama** of **ADAMS** we decided to do something else, and Shota was quite happy to go along with it. Instead of a regular Q&A style interview, we let Shota listen to as many different Belgian songs as possible, one for each letter of the alphabet we could find a song to represent at the time. Shota then gave his opinion, and sometimes we asked more questions. For those wondering how the songs sound, each and every one of them is on YouTube (or at least was at the time of the interview).

A: Arno "Les Yeux de ma Mère"

Auréli Vandecasteele (manager): Oh I love this song, I think it's amazing!

Shota: I love it as well!

How important is family to you both as a person and a musician?

Shota: Of course it is very important. As a musician my mother is very important to me. She has always supported me in my choice to become a musician. I knew that that is what I wanted from a pretty early time in my life, and she's always been there for me. So that's why she's the most important person to me as a musician, but of course the rest of my family is very important to me as well.

B: BRNS "Here Dead He Lies"

I like how they are trying something new and different. It's a new generation of rock music. I haven't seen the band's photo but they sound very stylish, like they thought about their image very well. *Auréli shows him the artwork* yes, I really do like their style, with all the modern art.

C: Channel Zero "Dark Passenger"

Laughs that's a very long intro! Maybe a bit too long even. I guess most metal bands are like that. I listened to some metal when I was in my teens, but admittedly only to Metallica. I like bands in that style more than traditional heavy metal. I guess I like a simpler style when it comes to aggressive and heavy sounds. Not the fast guitars that are getting so technical.

D: dEUS "Suds & Soda"

It sounds a little bit like *Oasis* to me: alternative but commercial at the same time.

E: Evil Superstars "B.A.B.Y."

Chuckles sometimes this song is reminiscent of *Marilyn Manson*, you know, from their early days. It also reminds me of oldies punk-rock, I like it a lot, I think it's really good. It's definitely a band I'd like to hear more of.

F: Front 242 "Headhunter" (remix)

I like it *smiles*.

What is your end game for ADAMS?

Well, if we would have a 10 year plan, so to speak, I hope that at the end of that ADAMS would be a band with global fame. And that we are still stylish and original too.

G: Gorki "Lieve Kleine Piranha"

I like it! It's a good pop-rock song. Obviously I can't understand the lyrics but I like the overall feel and melody.

Of all Dutch language alternative music, this is one of the best known songs. Even though singer Luc De Vos died some time ago, it is still known by people everywhere in Flanders. Which song by ADAMS do you hope to be remembered by even after your death? *Dizzy Love*. It is our strongest production so far. And by production I mean the total package, not just the song itself and the music, but also the imagery and the video clip we did for it.

H: "Here I Belong" Girls in Hawaii

It sounds almost like a movie. It's definitely something I'd listen to in private. I like the simple guitars on this song as well as the spoken word. I like a lot of instrumental music and soundtracks and this fits nicely.

You travel a lot. Where do you feel you belong the most?

I do go to a lot of places. I also get to know a lot of places, which is good for the creative vibes. I've been on the road a lot in the past two years, so a lot has changed in my mind, in the way I think and feel about things. But nearly all good and for the good *smiles*.

I: "Ice Guitars" Zita Swoon

This is really interesting! It's also rather different! It's definitely an interesting sound, and I also like the effects they've added to it.

J: Janes Detd. "Take on Me" (A-ha cover)

Shota: *Bursts out into laughter* Cool! Ok this is really great! Their sound is like punk and pop mixed together, it's a great combo! The song is very catchy as well!

Auréli: I like this one too!

At lives you have performed a cover of Sweet Dreams before, are there any other songs you'd still like to cover?

Shota: If I ever do another cover it should also be a famous song, because everyone knows those and it really shows the difference in sound of the original and the ADAMS take on it. I think that next time, if there is a next time, we'll go for something more mainstream and pop. Maybe I'll even cover *Madonna* *chuckles*.

Auréli: Maybe you should cover *99 Luftballons* by *Nena* just for the German fans *plays it*.

Shota: Oh I actually know this song! Well yes, maybe I will *smiles*!

K: Kiss My Jazz "Good Night Irene"

For a band with Jazz in the name it doesn't sound very jazzy at all to me.

L: Vive la Fête "Liberté"

Cool! It is very stylish! I like it a lot. I wonder how many people like rock in French. It is very popular? Or more scene oriented?



More scene oriented, even though *Vive la Fête* is quite big. The song is called "freedom", what is freedom to you?

What it is to me changes with my mood. When I am feeling down and negative, I don't feel free at all. But when I am feeling positive, I feel like I have the freedom to reach all my goals and like I can do absolutely anything and everything. So being positive is the key really *smiles*. And even though the world is never really "free", at least you can have personal freedom by being positive *smiles*.

M: "Moules Frites" Stromae

Shota: This is good and all, but why is Stromae so famous?

Aurélie: Because of his total package: sound, look, all of it.

Shota: So because of his general style?

Aurélie: Because he's unique.

Shota: So because people think he is cool, and listening to his music makes them feel cool too?

Aurélie: Because his lyrics are good and his music is different. That makes him popular. It's because he dares to be different and uses the African way of turning a bad or sad thing into a party.

BCM: Exactly. Things are negative, but they party anyway, because it's better to be positive than negative.

(Editor's note: we chose this song because the title, which means mussels and fries in English, but in reality it's about the AIDS problematic).

Being half African and half Belgian, Stromae often uses African influences in his music, like in this song. Do you think that spending so much time in Belgium, you will start using influences typically Belgian in your music?

Oh yes of course! I'm getting to know more Belgian music all the time *chuckles*.

Mussels and fries is probably one of the dishes typical of Belgium that people all over the world know and love. Which is your favourite Belgian food?

I'm not sure this is typically Belgian but I like artichokes *smiles*. I love the mood in bars here more than the food. I also like how beer and wine are cheaper here than they are in Japan and in the USA. I like steak. In Japan I never eat sweets or chocolate, but I do eat chocolate here from time to time, because I do like Belgian chocolate.

N: "Nix" Die Anarchistische Abentunderhaltung (DAAU)

Oh yes, this is very interesting for sure. I like the combination of instruments. Which ones are they?

Cello, violin, clarinet and accordion.

Cool, cool. I hear a lot more instrumental music here than I do in Japan. Japanese music is nearly always pop. Especially in the charts. We do have a lot of interesting instrumental music, but it's not mainstream. Mostly because young people aren't interested in it, which is a shame. I like how the EU does like it's instrumental music.

Belgium has a huge classical music tradition, with the world acclaimed Queen Elisabeth contest, which also makes for alternative chamber music like DAAU and Univers Zero. Is working with classical music something you'd ever want to do?

I would definitely like to do something with classical music with ADAMS yes. But I need to learn more about it first.

O: "On nous cache tout" été 67

Shota: It's cool! Can I watch the PV? I like how they obviously have a message, even though I don't understand it.

Aurélie: it's political.

BCM: it's about how a lot of information is kept from the general public.

Shota: It's an interesting theme for sure and I do agree with it.

Do you feel like there is a lot hidden from people?

Oh yes, absolutely. Everywhere.

As an artist, do you feel like you have to hide a lot of things from others?

No, not really. Of course my personal life is personal, but so is everybody's. But it's not like I'm hiding scandals or something bad *chuckles*. I know a lot of artists do, because their image requires them to have scandals like cheating and such, but that is not my style. Because it's not part of my image I don't need scandals *laughs*.

P: "Puppy" Magnus featuring Tim Vanhamel

I like this a lot, both the sound and the PV. I think it's very enjoyable.



R: Gabriel Rios "Dauphine"

Another one that I like and enjoy a lot. Both the sound and the PV.

S: Soulwax "Conversation Intercom"

This is a song about miscommunication, do you often feel like it is hard to communicate what you as an artist want to represent? I don't think so. To me it's most important that my team understands what I want to communicate. When ADAM, Aurélie and Ryota get it, we can really make things work the way I want. I'm not as fussed about what others think because music is open to interpretation. Which is as it should be really, else it would be really boring. And of course different people will see things differently, depending on how long they have been fans, which keeps things fresh and exciting for everyone.

T: TC Matic "Ooh la la"

Chuckles at the PV It definitely is different but it's good and I like the tune.

U: Univers Zero "Jack the Ripper"

Shota: Ok this is impressive! And very unique.

Aurélié: It's a bit scary I think, but that's unsurprising considering its called Jack the Ripper.

In Belgium, we don't really have a lot of mythology that is still important to society like in Japan, we have our human monsters from history, rather than monsters from folklore. Of all the creatures of Japan, which is the one you find most interesting?

Oh yes! We have so much folklore! All kinds of supernatural creatures. There are so many stories and books that it's nearly impossible to choose one for me, because I am not as into it as many Japanese are. To be honest, sometimes I think that our folklore and mythology is more interesting to people from outside of Japan, because it is so different from what they are used to. I really can't choose one, but if I have to I guess ghosts, because I like ghost stories, even though they scare me. I'll tell a story from when I was younger. When I went to junior high in Yokohama, we had a very old well opposite the entrance of my school. It was actually a historical site, as they used to execute people there. And of course, supposedly, it was haunted. I never saw a ghost though, luckily. But others did. To be honest I think that a lot of the Japanese's believes may have to do with the fact that so many are Buddhist and believe in reincarnation and such.

W: Tom Waes "Dos cervezas"

I think this is great! I don't care that it's a bit of a joke song, I love it *laughs*!

This is a parody on the *schlager* genre, if you were to parody a genre, which one would it be?

I think maybe I'll pass on making parodies of other songs and genres *chuckles*, it's not really my style. I still like this kind of song though just for the entertainment value *smiles*.

Would you be amused if someone would parody ADAMS?

Oh yes, absolutely! I would laugh if someone parodied ADAMS! Why not? It'll be funny!

Z: Zornik "Scared of Yourself"

It's a beautiful song. Very cool, I like it. I like how there are so many different layers to the song, and to the PV. Very well done.

Are there things that you undertake, or aspects of yourself, that scare you?

Shota: No, not a single thing! I'm not even scared when it comes to music *smiles*. The only thing that scares me are ghosts *laughs*.

Aurélié: And the pirate ship at the fun fair. You know, the half moon ships that swing and sometimes loop all the way around.

Shota: Well, we don't have rides that wild in Japan, at least not at places I've visited.

You are starting your new solo project soon, I can imagine that it's always a little scary to start something new, what are your expectations for it, and can you tell us a little more about it?

It will be cool! I'm not scared for it though, but I am excited! But first there will be more from ADAMS *smiles*!

(Editor: ADAMS is releasing their best off album Original Love in November, and will be going on a world tour in Europe, Asia and USA to support the release. It will contain new works as well as remixes produced by Japanese DJ's and composers.)

Find Shota online:

Official website: www.shotayokoyama.com

ADAMS website: www.adamshota.com

HIGHFEEL website: www.highfeel.jp

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/shotayokoyamamusic

ADAMS official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshota

Official twitter: twitter.com/shota2021

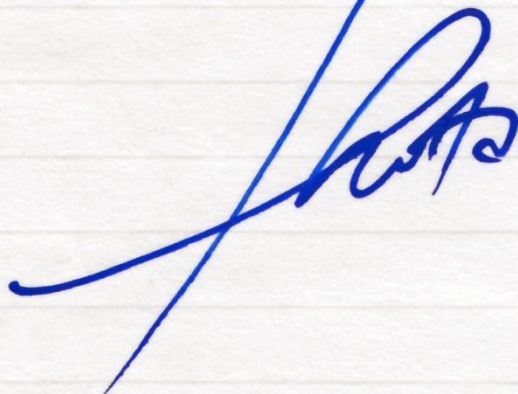
ADAMS official twitter: twitter.com/adamshota

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Thank you for
Reading VS

See you later
Love ...



Win a cheki signed by Shota of ADAMS!

When we interviewed Shota, we of course asked him if he would be ok with running another cheki competition for the fans, to which he of course agreed. And he was kind enough to not just sign one cheki for a lucky fan, but THREE!

So dear readers, that is what three of you can win: a cheki signed by Shota Yokoyama taken in July here in Belgium. Each winner will receive one signed cheki.

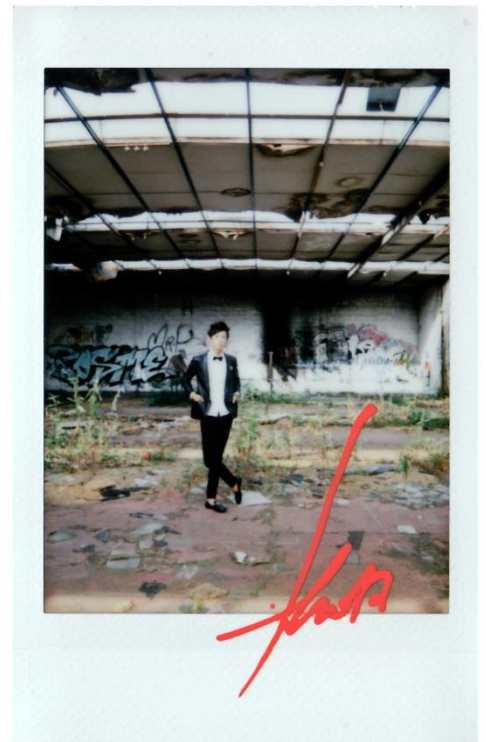
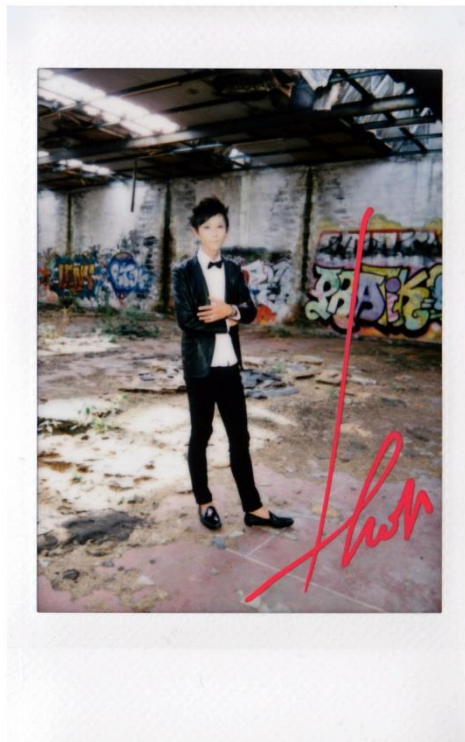
All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular signed cheki. You can write something, draw something, do a photoshop collage, anything goes as long as you can email it in some way and it is safe for work!

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and info@highfeel.jp, the last date for submissions is December 20th, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final edit period of the next edition, so please be patient for the Results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient, especially if you live outside of Belgium. Especially outside of Europe it may take everything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.





The truth behind Christmas
X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACLAVIS

X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus has a band name that implies drunken madness, but we can assure you that the band was perfectly sober whilst they brought their hard rock tunes to Europe, along with their new album, **Nouveau Départ**.

BCM caught up with **XMAS** on a boat, before their live in Liège.

As a means of introduction, can you say one nice thing about each other?

Yu-ta (drums): *Charlie* is like a superhero *chuckles*. He's a great guitarist and my friend. *Kei* can shout really well and we really connect during lives playing the bass and the drums. My cat also loves him *smiles* and he's a good composer. We have a different way of working but I respect that. *Masaya* has got a great, straightforward rhythm.

Masaya (guitar): *Charlie* is a good friend, and a good drinking buddy *laughs*. I totally follow him when it comes to the band. I love *Kei's* voice. We're the same age. *Yu-ta* and I have been friends the longest so we understand each other really well. He's got a really cool, original drum rhythm, which isn't traditionally Japanese. That's cool because it means he stands out as a drummer.

Kei (vocals & bass): I like *Yu-ta's* drum style. Especially at shows. *Charlie* has common sense and passion. I respect that. Because *Masaya* and I are the same age we can really depend on each other and rely on one another.

Charlie (guitar): I like how *Yu-ta* and I have different styles but still respect each other. I also like his drum style. I love *Kei's* voice and skills on the bass. I also love his long hair and make-up. He's got a lot of style when it comes to his looks. *Masaya* and I are good friends. He'll tell me off when he thinks I'm wrong and it makes me happy that we are so close that he feels comfortable doing that. That really makes me happy *smiles*. I respect him a lot we're like soulmates *laughs*. He knows loads of guitar sounds and teaches them to me so he's essential for **XMAS'** overall sound.

We gotta ask: why a drunk Santa?

Charlie: It's pretty straight forward really. I love Christmas, I like the entire personification of Santa like we know him, and I like drinking *laughs*. So it made total sense to name the band **X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus** *chuckles*.

If Santa were to get drunk on Belgian beer, which would it be?

Charlie: I imagine it'd be any of the following: *Chimay*, *Hoegaarden* and *Jupiler*.

Masaya: Or *Stella* or *Westmalle Triple*.

Kei: *joking* Heineken Premium! *laughs*

Shota Yokoyama (translator): Belgian beer! Heineken isn't Belgian. And there is nothing premium about Heineken!

Your first album is titled Nouveau Départ, which can be translated to new start. In which way is it a new start for XMAS as a band?

Charlie: We recorded it working towards our first European tour, actually we made it especially for the tour. It's a fresh start in the sense that we got to come to Europe, which we have never done before. The title also refers to us traveling to the EU to perform here.

What do you hope this European tour will mean for the future of XMAS?

Charlie: I'm hoping that because of this tour we'll be able to come back for a second European tour.

Did you research Europe before coming here?

Kei: I like *Tokyo Disney*, especially *Tokyo Disney Sea*, for the architecture. So I looked at *Disneyland Paris* for the castle architecture as I like castles. And then I looked up other castles in Europe from that point *smiles*.

Charlie: I knew about the Pee Boy! I saw him yesterday when we were in Brussels.

BCM: Was Manneken Pis everything you thought he would be?

Charlie: He was actually bigger than I thought he'd be. I didn't know about the Pee Girl, so finding out about her was a nice surprise.





You've been recording video comments for the tour, do you think you will make a proper tour documentary too after it's over?

Charlie: We've not really planned anything, but I think we might do a short one, yeah.

You've done quite a bit of sightseeing on this tour, what do you like the most about Europe so far?

Masaya: The big churches, those are very impressive.

Charlie: Waffles! I really love the Belgian waffles!

Kei: *Jeanne Pis*, the pee girl *chuckles*. Just because that was unexpected and funny.

Yu-ta: I really enjoyed shopping in Brussels, and I love the views.

Charlie: I love how easy it is to find antique stores, I love browsing those.

BCM: Did you buy anything?

Charlie: I wanted to, but it was either not within my budget or too difficult to take home. Maybe I'll be lucky and find something at another shop at a later date on the tour *smiles*.

Before it's Christmas its first Halloween, what are you guys going to dress up as?

Shota: Dracula! I will wear vampire fangs!

Kei: Every day is Halloween *smiles*.

Charlie: Iron Man *shows his Iron Man tattoo*.

Yu-ta: I'd like to dress up as Jack Sparrow.

Masaya: I want to do something silly and dress up in a maid outfit, lolita style *laughs*.

A lot of fans have made really enthusiastic posts about your lives on social media and you have met a lot of fans already as well. Which fan has stood out the most so far?

Charlie: The German support team. I think they've been to pretty much every show on the tour.

Shota: They bring along Christmas cookies and gifts.

Charlie: And the fans at Abunai.

Masaya: Especially the ones cosplaying anime characters.

Christmas is a time for gifts, what can fans always make you happy with?

Charlie: Candy, especially candy canes.

Masaya: Beer.

Kei: Money *laughs*.

U-ta: I'm a smoker, so cigarettes.

You do a lot of quirky Christmas themed things on this tour, such as wrapping t-shirts as Christmas presents and using a Christmas ribbon with the band's name. How far would you take it if you were to perform on Christmas Day and money was no issue?

Shota: Well, actually the band has this thing going on that they are actually Santa, and so they never perform on Christmas Day as they have to work delivering presents all around the globe. Right now it is off-season for them, so they have time for drunken lives *laughs*.

(Editor: it is worth noting that the band is actually quite sober whilst performing.)

On a closing note, what has been your best Christmas related memory, both of the holiday in general and with the band?

Charlie: Mine is definitely band related: the combination of recording the CD, looking forward to and getting ready for the tour and then actually coming on this tour. And Yu-ta's speedy recovery. He broke a bone in his hand in an accident not too long ago, but thankfully he was right as rain in time for the tour.

Yu-ta: I'm all healed up *smiles*.

Find X Made Alcoholic Santaclaws online:

Official website: <http://x-mas045.com>

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/xmas045

Official twitter: twitter.com/Xmas045



XMAS!!

DATE

from Japan!

Min 12/25

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merry Xmas!!

Let's food!!

Win a cheki signed by X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACL AUS!

When we interviewed XMAS before their show on the party/gig boat La Légia in Liège, we of course asked the band if they would be ok with running a cheki competition for the fans, to which they of course agreed. And they were kind enough to sign that one cheki for a lucky fan!

So dear readers, that is what you can win: a cheki signed by X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACL AUS taken in September in Liège, Belgium.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular signed cheki. You can write something, draw something, do a photoshop collage, anything goes as long as you can email it in some way and it is safe for work!

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and info@highfeel.jp, the last date for submissions is December 20th, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

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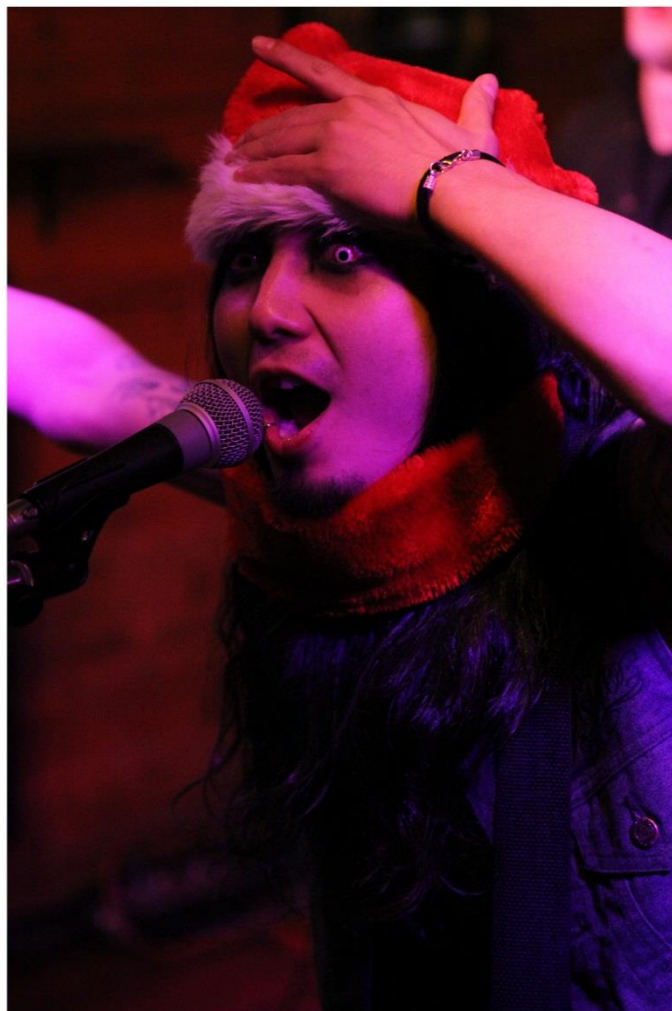
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christmas fashion is
coming to town



Kei of X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus
XMAS live at La Legia in Liège.
Sunday, September 6 2015
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert ©



X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus (xmas)



Hat, H&M Kids. Holly brooch on hat, handmade. Frames, Theo. Gingerbread man brooch, Lintje. Scarf, Veritas. Mittens, H&M. Aviator jacket, H&M. Cardigan, HEMA. Muff, New Look. Piano bag, Angelic Pretty. Teddybear bag, Tokyo Disney Sea. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Underskirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Leggings, H&M. Woolen socks, HEMA. Spats, House of Secrets Incorporated. Boots, Kickers.



Hat, vintage. Knitted cardigan coat, thrifted. Dress, Innocent World. Tights, convention seller. Shoes, Wolky. Accessories, Claire's and vintage.



Beret, ebay seller. Brooch on beret, Lintje. Frames, Theo. Blouse, Forever 21. Cardigan, Primark. Skirt, handmade by Hilde. Petticoats, Dear Celine and American Apparel. Belt bag, Zara Girls. Sash, skinny tie from asos. Tie guard, Poorman's Gold Label. Tassel, Atita. Tights, Teja Jamilla. Socks, Insua. Boots, Kickers.

EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

For more events in the United Kingdom, also make sure to keep an eye on the Japan Underground event calendar:
<https://japanunderground.wordpress.com/upcoming-events>

October 2015

Ailleurs en Folie Tokyo

Date: 15 - 25

Venue: La Maison Folie

City: Mons

Country: Belgium

www.mons2015.eu

ASTAN ASIA DAY

Date: 17

Venue: Weststadthalle

City: Essen

Country: Germany

www.facebook.com/events/1032056040142671

November 2015

ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION

7: Werkstatt, Cologne, Germany

8: Islington Academy, London, UK

10: La Machine, Paris, France

www.b7klan.com



Kamijo live in Paris

27: La Boule Noire, Paris, France (concert)

28: Le Pavillon Dauphine, Paris, France (party)

ADAMS "Original Love" World Tour

26: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France

27: Tokyo Games Center, Dijon, France

28: Mokon, Warsaw, Poland

29: Japan Touch, Lyon, France

www.facebook.com/highfeellofficial



December 2015

ONE OK ROCK on tour

2: Tele Club, Ekaterinburg, Russia

3: Glayclub, St-Petersburg, Russia

4: Yotaspaces, Moscow, Russia

6: The Academy, Dublin, Ireland

7: Academy 2, Manchester, UK

8: The Garage, Glasgow, Scotland

10: O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London, UK

11: Trix, Antwerp, Belgium

12: Live Music Hall, Cologne, Germany

13: Schlachthof, Weisbaden, Germany

15: Docks, Hamburg, Germany

16: Posbahnhof, Berlin, Germany

17: Theaterfabrik, Munich, Germany

19: Alcatraz, Milan, Italy

20: X-TRA, Zurich, Switzerland

21: Olympia, Paris, France

22: Paradiso, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.oneokrock.com



ADAMS "Original Love" World Tour

3: P60, Amstelveen, The Netherlands

4: Cortina Bob, Berlin, Germany

5: Japan Ro, Cologne, Germany

6: fanclub event in Brussels, Belgium

11: Chapeau Rouge, Prague, Czech Republic

12: venue TBA, Budapest, Hungary

13: Gloria, Helsinki, Finland

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International lolita day

Date: 5

WORLDWIDE

Rufflebutt Christmas

lolita fashion holiday

Date: 28

WORLDWIDE

Archeon Midwinter Fair

Date: 12

Venue: Archeon

City: Alphen aan den Rijn

Country: The Netherlands

<http://www.archeon.nl/nl/agenda/13de-midwinter-fair.html>

Gothic Fairytale winter promenade

Date: 13

Time: noon, Grote Markt

City: Antwerp

Country: Belgium

www.facebook.com/events/512623168895828

April 2016

COALESCAREMONIUM

Art Nouveau Noise

Date: 2

Venue: Bouche à Oreille

City: Etterbeek

Country: Belgium

www.coalescaremonium.info



CHECK THAT CHEKI

want to be on the next edition's check that cheki page? Just submit one!



It's not because we
don't do Instagram that
we don't like photo props!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



RINRIN DOLL SIGNING SESSION SNAP

Saturday, July 4; Princess Crêpe, Paris, France

Photography by Marie Tuonetar.



ANGELIC PRETTY TEA PARTY SNAP

Saturday, July 4; Hotel Shangri-La, Paris, France

Photography by and provided by Marie Tuonetar.



STARCOM COSPLAY SNAP

Sunday, July 5; ICC, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



ATSUSACON FASHION & COSPLAY

SNAP

July 18 - 19, ICC, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Shota Yokoyama of ADAMS
Photography by Bert van den Wyngaert ©